WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

January 6, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks for yous of December 22nd. Please excuse my delay in answering but have been in the midst of finishing up THE HALF DISME OF 1792. I have hopes that this article will clear up what I believe to be the misleading legend of Washington's Silver having been used for this coin and Martha Washington's likeness on the obverse.

The matters concerning The Mint of North America, as near as I can tell from my notes, will run to about 25 pages. According to the schedule of fees for reproduction at The National Archives their charge for negatives, per 50 images to nearest 50 are $2.50. In view of the fact that these records are contained in large bound volumns there may be an additional charge for adjustment of the camera on some of the takes.

I regret the fact that from a financial standpoint I must make my research stand on its own two legs. I estimate that there would be about a days work involved in relocating these records and marking them for micro-filming. My fee for research is $25.00 per day.

In the event you do not want to go to this expense, I will, when I have time, send you copies of my notes.

In either case I will be glad to co-operate with you.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

September 23, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I had a note from Lee Hewitt recently wherein he said that you were interested in having some references checked at The National Archives.

I have read with considerable personal interest THE CONTINENTAL DOLLAR MEETS ITS MAKER. No one but another researcher can appreciate the time and effort you devoted to this article.

In view of the fact that I am doing some research on matters around this same period the thought occurs to me that we might be able to work out some sort of a reciprocity arrangement.

I have documented and proved by many sources that Robert Morris established the first official Mint of The United States under the name of The Mint of North America. This Mint was located in Philadelphia. The Nova Constellatio Patterns were definitely struck at this Mint and I believe the coppers of the same name, the Confederatio Cents and possibly The Immune Columbia Cents were struck there.

The general characteristics of die sinking of these issues are strikingly similar and bear a resemblance to the work on The Continental Dollar. Could it be that the date of Gallaudet's death was 1805 ? As you say he lived in New Jersey and could have easily been called in to do the work. The design of The Fugio Cents is also very similar to The Continental Dollar and also raises the same question.

I will be glad to hear what your interest is at The Archives, and if you will advise me, I will be glad to see what I can do at my first opportunity.

Good hunting,

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

September 28, 1959

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

It was very refreshing to hear from you particularly since numismatic researchers are so few and far between. I hope that the future will be beneficial to both of us in assistance to one another, as you suggest. I wish to thank you for your nice comments concerning my recent article on Elisha Gallaudet.

It was nice of Lee Hewitt to write you. I merely asked him for the source of a squib that he published to the effect that Bickfeldt helped to make the Nova dies and he told me it was probably from you or from Stewart's book.

I would like to have from you, for my files, a reference to all the articles you have written and if you have a spare copy of each that would be helpful. I am enclosing a copy of the reprint of "Counterfeit Continental Currency Goes To War". I would also like to know your age, training, and whether your numismatic research is your full time profession or not. I am merely an amateur who carries his hobby pretty far.

You asked about Gallaudet's death being 1805. This is an error in the books on the subject as each copies the other. I have read over his will and the administration of his estate and am satisfied he died in 1779.

The reason I am now working the early American field is that there is so much unknown. I have several articles and books in preparation and am very much interested in your statement that the Mint of North America was actually operated. I knew that the silver Novas were made there and wondered if you had other information than Robert Morris' diary, Jefferson's letter, and the other well-known published items. Incidentally, have you checked the original of Robert Morris' diary

September 28, 1959

to see that the excerpts concerning the mint were all included in the publication of the applicable portions? I believe the Library of Congress has the diary.

The Nova coppers are one of the subjects I am working on as well as Confederates, Lamunes, etc.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for writing me.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

ENN/atb

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

September 30, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
Saint Louis 2
Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:-

Thanks for your letter of September 28th. I appreciate the copy of your COUNTER FEIT CONTINENTAL CURRENCY GOES TO WAR. I enjoyed reading it when it appeared.

The little item paid to Jacob Eckfield (Adam's Father) was in connection with The Nova Constellatio pattern dies.

It is unfortunate that I do not have tear sheets of all the articles I have written. Some have gone to The Library, some to publishers so that I now find that even my own files are not complete.

I became interested in Numismatic research severl years ago at the instigation of Lee Hewitt. To be frank with you, i went into it at first more as a lark than a serious endeavor. But as you know after you have develed into some of these old records and solved some of the problems of research you become intrigued as one problem seems to lead to another. At present I am making my research for my articles together with special assignments my full time work.

Judging from your letter I am of the opinion that my research on The Mint of North America, The Novas, both patterns and coppers, The Constellatios and Immune Columbia might possibly progressed a little further than yours. I have been working on this for the last several months and am now in a position where I can document the fact that the Mint of North America was the first official Mint of the government and make some very good conjectures that the coinage mentioned above was most likely struck by the same people inolved in this Mint.

I agree with you that this whole period is vague. I doubt if we will ever come up with positive proof on a lot of these matters. Crosby's conclusions were all qualified with probalbities and most liklies.

I appreciate your information on Gallaudet. This was just another of those research hunches.

Thanks again for writing me and I am looking forward to hearing further from you.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

October 2, 1959

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your prompt letter of September 30, 1959. I did want you to give me the citations of the various articles you have written as that would be helpful to me.

As far as the Jacob Eckfeldt matter is concerned, I thought you might have something in addition to the payment to Eckfeldt mentioned in Crosby.

My knowledge of the Mint of North America is from the record of expenditures and from the diary of Robert Morris which indicate that it did not operate after the silver Novas were made. Your speculation that coppers were made there in production is highly questionable. I have a great deal of information which would indicate otherwise. If I were asked to give my opinion I would say that the dies for the copper Novas, the Confederatios, and theImmune Columbias were made in England and some of the pieces struck there. Some of these dies were brought to America and at first used legitimately and subsequently used illegitimately on silver and gold strikings.

If you have other material on the Mint of North America which is new which you would like to let me see, I will certainly respect your prior rights and I may be able to help you. The official government description of the Confederatio has never been properly presented to the public.

Don't ever despair coming up with positive proof. My Good Samaritan book is proof that you can find a needle in a haystack.

I am giving the fall lecture at A.N.S. on November 14, on Coinage of Coppers at Machin's Mills and hope, in due course, to complete a book on that subject. As a full time researcher you should find many more things than I and have a wonderful time doing it.

October 2,1959

Cut me in on a little of the Mint of North America data.
I am 48 - how old are you?

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 5, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Your letter of Oct. 2nd arrived just as I finished up some business chores and I find myself with a little time on my hands.

As far as citations are concerned for the various articles I have writen that is easy. Outside of biographical material my writings have been based on documents contained in The Mint records at The National Archives. If you are interested in obtaining Xerox copies of any of these documents they are readily available.

I will be glad to enter into an arrangement with you on an interchange of information with each of us respecting the prior rights of the other.

I find it difficult to put my findings and theories regarding The Mint of North America in the limited confines of a letter. Judging from what you have to say on this matter I would imagine that most of your references are to Crosby. He had only part of the story. The record of payments he shows were copied from one of Robert Morris's biographies. I have located in the journals and ledgers of The Continental Congress payments made to Benjamin Dudley, in preparing a mint, and to others, between the years 1781 and 1783 (Crosby only shows 1783 and they do not correspond with these records) In addition Robert Morris bought some $2600 worth of Copper (This was later used on The Fugio Cents). This evidence together with the extradinary powers Congress granted Morris in return for accepting the office of Financier coupled with that body's many periodic urgings that Morris establish a Mint leads me to conlude that although there was only one issue, The Nova Patterns, The Mint of North America was the first official Mint of the U.S. and the patterns the first officiel coinage. Under the arrangement Morris had with Congress any act of his could be construed to be an act of Government, this coupled with the many resolutions of Congress authorizing and urging the establishment of a mint proves the intent of the legislatures. A background of Morris business lifetime helps in drawing this conclusion. As you know doubt know he privately oraganized The Bank of North America and I believe that if he had not been discouraged The Mint of Nort America would have struck more coins in an official capacity than it did.

Now as the the Novas, The Immune Columbia and The Constellatio, there is no question that Crosby's conclusions are qualified with "probablies" and "most likelies". I do not know whether you have any further information than he had. However it would seem to me more than a co-incidence that the Nova Coppers were struck the same year that the patterns were, The known friendship of Robert Morris and governeur Morris as a factor to be considered

Robert Mossis's stated desire to help Benjamin Dudley should enter into any conclusion - in connection with this we must consider that this man had spent two years in "preparing a Mint". Every biographer of Governeur Morris represents him as being an "Opportunist". Many have credited him with being responsible for the Nova Coppers. What more logical conclusion could you draw than he took over the operation of Dudley and proceeded. There was certainly the money motif.

As far as The Immune Columbia's are concerned I don't believe, in view of the fact that they are patterns they were struck in England. This is going to be a tough one to tie down.

I would like to have the information that leads you to believe that the official government description of the Confederatio's has never been properly presented to the public. On the bottom of a report Hugh Williamson made to the Continental Congress I have found what I believe to be the original sketch of the reverse of this series. The sketch accompanied a report that deplored siphoning off of this countries gold and silver specie by the influx of foreign manufactured coppers. If former theories are correct - how did Williamsons sketch get into the hands of Wyon in Birmingham. Wouldn't it be more logical to assume in view of the fact that the Confederatio's are dated 1785 the same year as Williamson's report that this particular die was cut in this country and most likely struck by Dudley's outfit.

I know that the whole matter is highly controversial, but I don't think we can ever tie them down absolutely. To make the best interpertations of the known facts is the best that we can do.

I wish you success with both your lecture and your book on COINAGE OF COPPERS AT MACHIN's MILLS.

I have recently become very much interested in THE COMMODITY CURRENCIES of the early times. So far research and the assitance of the State Archivists have brought to light some very interesting and strange information.

I have a few years on you having just reached 57 last week - however I believe that you have some years on me when it comes to Numismatic research - I have only been actively engaged for about a year.

I look forward with interest to the possibility of mutually working out some of the many unknowns that exist.

Sincerely

Walter

Walter Thompson

WALTER THOMPSON
7600 MORGAN ST.
ALEXANDRIA. VA.

Oct. 6, 1959

Dear Mr. Newman:-

After mailing my letter to you yesterday I realized I had left out one of the important factors that lead me to believe that The Mint of North America can be termed the first official Mint of the U.S.

As I said in my letter it is difficult to bring all the factors into focus within in the confines of a letter. I would like to point out that an understanding of the character and make up of Robert Morris and Governeur Morris is a definite factor in reaching a conclusion. Obtaining this you will be in a position to make a good conjecture as to how they would re-act under a given set of circumstances.

The point I left out in my letter is this - The ledgers and journals show a total payment to Dudley and others of over $1600 - 1781 to 1783. Morris then transferred this amount to a new account in the ledger headed THE MINT OF NORTH AMERICA. He left it in this manner with the total amount as a debit. As you know Robert Morris was ver meticulous about his stwartship. I ha ve seen at the rare book division of the Congressional library the reproduction of all these records he has publ'shed at his own expense. Knowing his digust at the failure of Congress and the states to support him in establishing a Mint it is obvious that he had no [redacted] compunction in leaving this account for all to see. The action speaks for itself - here is the Mint now what are you going to do with it.

[redacted]

Hurriedly

Walter

P.S. I am about to leave for the Archives am in the middle of a defalcation affair that took place in New Orleans in 1839. There is always something new that comes up - in this case we have discovered that there were some lightweight dimes struck and issued by the New Orleans Mint in 1839

October 19, 1959

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I happened to pass through Philadelphia and on my visit with Mr. Gilroy Roberts, engraver at the United States Mint, he mentioned your name.

You still have not given me the citation to the various articles you have written on numismatics. I would very much like to have for my file the entries in the ledgers and journals from 1781 to 1783 covering the Mint of North America. I would like to put these in with the entries from Robert Morris' Diary which cover the same period.

I am making up a bunch of colored slides for my talk in New York on November 14, at A.N.A. so research will have to stop while I take care of my notes for that occasion.

The A.N.A. has appointed a committee to republish a number of articles previously written and published in the Numismatist. I certainly wish you were not connected with the Scrapbook so intimately so that you might be able to take some of those articles and rewrite them. This matter is just being considered and ought to serve a useful purpose.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 24, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2. Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Gilroy Roberts is definitely a friend of any serious researcher. He has been very helpful to me.

To go back and get the citations, you apparantly seem to order, to all the articles I have written over a period of two years would require more time than our reciprocity agreement seems to cover.

The references regarding The Mint of North America will appear shortly in the N.M.S. and I believe these will serve your purposes.

You have my best wishes for success in your talk in New York at A.N.S. I am sure you will be well received.

I hardly know how to interpert your remark about my intimate connection with the Scrapbook. I can possibly clarify your line of thinking by saying that my interest in research is purely professional. On this basis I would be glad to assist any effort on revision and classification of Numismatic literature.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

December 17, 1959

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Va.

Dear Mr.Thompson:

I have read with great interest your article on the Mint of North America. I certainly would like to have a copy of the official records which you state indicates that Crosby's information was incomplete or in error. There were a number of new facts which you presented and which I enjoyed knowing, very much.

As far as your speculation as to the Nova Constellatio coppers is concerned, I decided to elaborate and wrote an article which Lee Hewitt will apparently publish in January. I think this will refer to your article and perhaps develop more interest in the subject.

Your recent article on Jefferson's notes will be helpful to the newer collectors and certainly it is time for that material to be republished in available form.

In the meantime, please accept my best wishes for the Holiday Season, and keep writing.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

December 19, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman

Your letter of December 17th was very gratefully received. Kind gestures of this nature greatly help to compensate for the general lack of appreciation for the researchers work.

There is still much work to be done and certainly further conjectures are in order regarding The Mint of North America. I shall look forward with interest to reading your elaboration on The Nova Constellio Coppers.

You may be interested in knowing that Mr. David A. Kimball, Park Historian of Independance National Historical Park in Philadelphia is very interested in locating more information about the Mint of North America. He very generously offers to do anything he can to assist on this project". He has available to him the records of The Bank of North America 1780-1923 and he is attempting through these records and others that are available to him in the Philadelphia area to obtain more information about the matter.

I note your continued interest in obtaining some of the citations and background material to articles I have written. It is my suggestion that you have this and other material available put on micro film. I have a projector that I am no longer using and it is possible, if you are interested, something could be worked out on this. Harry Boosel worked out his entire series of articles on the year 1873 from micro film records.

Mr work in gathering material for a forthcoming book "FROM WAMPUM TO DOLLARS" definetly points up the crying need for a general editing and re-writing in available form of the best in Numismatic literature. The commercial possibilities of a project of this nature would appear to justify the expense and labor involved.

If you find yourself in or near our area in the future, Mrs. Thompson and I would like to have you visit us. Perhaps you may even find the time to spend a day at The National Archives with me.

Thanking you again for your kind encouragement and wishing you the best for the Holiday season, I am

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

December 22, 1959

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 1959.

I have a microfilm reader and if the matters concerning the Mint of North America can be ordered microfilmed, I would certainly be glad to have them. How many pages are involved and what is the cost of microfilming the material?

I will be very appreciative of your cooperation in helping me obtain these.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

March 15, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2
Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

In view of our mutual interest in matters pertaining to The Mint of North America I thought you would be interested in knowing of the latest developments.

Mr. David Kimball, Park Historian of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia advises me of the following item that appeared in THE PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL October 29, 1783. "On October 23, 1783, Dudley was chosen to make a die for the purposes of striking and finishing the order of The State Society of the Cincinnati" This society has their headquarters in Washington, D.C. and they have provided me with the following minutes of the Pennsylvania branch of the Society on October 4, 1783.

> " It was moved, that Mr. Dudley, an artist lately from Europe, should be employed, by this Society, to form a die, for the purposes of striking and finishing the order of the Society; which was carried in the affirmative."

I was informed that a Major Fornance would have more particulars about the actual medal struck. I have written him and hope that he will be able to furnish enough material to justify an article.

To my mind what this new evidence seems to indicate is that the Mint of North America did more than just strike the Nova Constellatio Patterns. There is of course one weak point and that is the proceedings state "Mr. Dudley, an artist lately of Europe". The Dudley we know of was a mechanic from Boston and could have been lately from Europe for all that we know at present. However, it would seem strange, that there would be two Dudleys in the year 1783 engaged in the processes of coining in Philadelphia especially in view of the known lack of artists and trained mechanics during those times.

If you run accross anything new on these matters I will appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson

March 17, 1960

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for the interesting additional data on Dudley's employment to make an order for the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati.

There are not two Dudley's. Dudley happened to be visiting Boston, temporarily, at the time he was picked up and brought to Philadelphia to do the Nova work. From the data in Morris' Diary it is clear that Dudley was planning to return to Europe when the project did not proceed favorably. I hope these facts are helpful to you.

I read your article on the 1792 half disme and recognize the amount of work you put in to it.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

The
NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE

7320 MILWAUKEE AVENUE CHICAGO 48, ILLINOIS

LEE F. HEWITT—*Editor*

Nov 30/60

Dear Eric:

That Spanish dollar in R.I. currency was a fiche item Walter Thompson sent me (presumably from archives) some months ago.

Perhaps he will remember exactly what document it came from.

His address is

7600 Morgan
Alexandria, Va.

Yours

LHP

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

December 6, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Street
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

It was nice to hear from you again.

The item about the Relationship between the Spanish Dollar and Rhode Island Currency was discovered in my search of the session laws of the original states for information of The Commodity Currencies. This subject will be a chapter of the book FROM WAMPUM TO DOLLARS. I believe this information came from Rhode Island Colonial Records by John R. Bartlett, Secretary of State.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

December 2, 1960

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I enjoyed reading The Relationship between the Spanish Dollar and Rhode Island Currency which was in the November Scrapbook and wonder if you have the citation where you found it. Lee Hewitt was kind enough to tell me that you sent it in.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

March 20, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I have checked my files and I have nothing exciting on John Ross Snowden other than what has been written about him previously.

I am glad to see you producing so much work for many publications and hope you find this work rewarding not only from a financial point of view but from a point of view of personal satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

February 24, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Street
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am presently engaged in gathering material on James Ross Snowden. I have available at The National Archives the Mint records and from The Historical Society of Pa. other material.

As his administration is of interest to Numismatists for what they don't know about it, I am leaving no stone unturned in this project.

Perhaps your research has turned up some items. Will greatly appreciate any information or leads you may be able to furnish.

With my best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

August 8, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr.Thompson:

Your article on the 1804 Dollar situation is certainly the result of a tremendous amount of work. I believe you did a very effective piece of writing. I was familiar with much of the material but you certainly have found some letters which were new to me.

I am going to talk on the 1804 Dollar situation at the Atlanta Convention and will have some completely new data to present.

As you know, a number of us are writing a book on the 1804 Dollars,as we believe that all of the information should be assembled in one spot rather than have it scattered throughout all of numismatic literature.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

August 11, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Street
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I certainly appreciate your taking time out from a very busy life to write me such a nice letter about my recent article on the 1804 Dollar. This letter makes me believe that research and writting might still be worth while. I am looking forward with interest in learning about your new disclosures on this subject.

What you have to say about assembling all the information in one spot concerning the 1804 Dollar I agree with. I believe that this condition exists with many facets of Numismatic Literature and I would like to see some effort made to correlate some of the more important subjects. For my part I would be glad to donate whatever time I might have available for this purpose. Perhaps you can use your good office to get things started along this line.

It is always a pleasure to hear from you,

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

September 6, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

In your letter of August 11, 1961 you indicated your willingness to cooperate in matters concerning the work on the 1804 Dollar. In your article on the origin and history of proof sets, in the September, 1961 Scrapbook, you state that by the year 1838 requests began to be received by the mint for specimens of the current coinage and in addition there were requests for earlier coinage which the mint could not fill. I am very anxious to learn whether you have seen any letters prior to 1843 for requests for the earlier coins. This is a matter of critical importance, I believe.

I am familiar with the letter you quoted in your previous article in the Scrapbook and which is of a much later date.

I shall appreciate your helpfulness.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

September 9, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I believe you have mis-interpreted my letter of Aug. 11th. The 1804 Dollar is only one of possibly hundreds or more of Numismatic subjects that need correlating. My suggestion to you was meant to mean that if the ANA should sponsor such a project I would be glad to freely volunteer my time not otherwise occupied.

Your questions regarding numismatic interest around 1838 will be fully and completely answered in A HISTORY OF THE U.S. MINT CABINET I expect will be published shortly after the first of the year. Can you wait until that time ? I feel that it would be much more satisfactory than the sketchy details I could furnish in a letter.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Singerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

September 30, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have finally had the opportunity to re-examine my material on The Mint Cabinet story and I find a whole series of letters showing collector interest in 1838. I am of the opinion that another search in this period and for this particular subject will be rewarding. This I propose to do.

Thanks to your letter of Sept. 6th these letters have greater significance and on that basis worthy of a separate study apart from the Mint Cabinet. Would you be so kind as to give me the basis or reference upon which Numismatists set the date of 1843 for the first collector interest. I am familiar with the President's visit to the Mint during that year. Like you I consider this matter to be of historical significance and very worthy of development from all angles.

I will greatly appreciate your co-operation.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

October 3, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I am glad to help you but you seem to have reservations about helping me. Whenever I ask you for something you are very vague in your answers or you have reasons why you do not let me have the citations I ask for. What you must realize is that I am not trying to interfere with any of your writing or appropriate any of your material. You wrote an article stating that there was collector interest as early as 1838 and I asked you for the source of it. You now tell me that there is a series of letters and give me no data with respect to them. You say you are going into it further.

Would you be nice enough to look over these letters and specify which, if any, show a desire to collect United States silver dollars, other early United States Mint issues or coins by date. This will in no way interfere with what you propose to write. I merely want a proper citation to show that there was an interest in early United States dollars in the 1838 to 1841 period if that is true. How about ordering me photocopies or make me a carbon of your transcripts.

You asked me the basis for numismatists stating that 1843 was the earliest date of collector interest. The basis for this fallacy is that a letter was written by William DuBois to Matthew Stickney in 1843 naming ten collectors with whom the mint was familiar. On July 2, 1867 Stickney wrote to Edward Cogan quoting from the DuBois letter among other things. The Stickney letter was first published in full in the American Journal of Numismatics for August, 1867 and subsequently republished. I enclose a photocopy of the part you want. Stickney was collecting since 1818, Cohen's father since 1828, etc. so that the date of 1843 is ridiculous as the beginning of collector interest. There ought to be letters from the ten named collectors in the mint letter file.

October 3, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson

Now you have data from me. Let's see what you do in exchange.

There is no reason for competition between us. Most of the other researchers correspond with me in detail and I think you will find it worth while for us to help each other.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN
atb

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 6, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

You jump too quickly to unjustified conlusions.

Part of my livlihood is the revenue produced by my research and writting. I cannot afford to drop everything I am doing to go fifteen miles to the archives to answer a question you might have. I could not send you what was not in my possession. The information I had at the time of your request was in the form of notes. I have now copies I made in longhand of the letters you are interested in and will try to give you the pertinent facts. Time will not permit to make other copies. However, I think this is as good a time as any, if our relationship is to continue on a co-operative basis, that you should understand and appreciate the fact that I re-act unfavorably and resent requests for information that flavor of dictatorial methods.

There are three letters involving a W.C. Stearn of Boston, Mass.; one dated August 15, 1838 From Director R. M. Patterson Jr. to Stearns ; the other two dated Aug. 23, 1838 and September 8, 1838 from Stearns to Patterson (These are all the references you will need should you desire to order copies from the Archives). There may be some earlier refernce to collector interest as when I went through those records I did not have this particular subject in mind. There are several letters missing that are mentioned in the correspondance one contains the list of coins Stearns was interested in acquiring. Apparently Stearns was interested in coinage figures as Patterson's letter of Aug. 15th states that there were about 1500 half dismes struck in 1792. I consider this important as it is an early estimate made by a person whose opinion should be respected. Judd gives this coin a rating of F-3 or 201 to 500. This letter reflects an interest in Edges and Half Eagles of the late 1790's and early 1500's.

The letter of Aug. 23rd of Stearn's reflects a general interest; DuBois is looking for coins Stearns wants (the list is not available) and the method of settlement is discussed.

No doubt Stearn's formed a large cabinet of coins as in his letter of September 8th he states - "I have a very misscelaneous collection of foreign silver coins, perhaps 700 or 800 - and about as many of copper but none of gold." He evinces an interest in Gold coins of Great Britain and France, especially Queen Anne and Louis 14th. He discusses arrangements to have his broker look out for forengn coins Director Patterson wants for the Mint Cabinet.

Another pertinent fact along this line in my possession, is found in item 175 of the Inventory of Mint records. This item is a book of account kept by Director Patterson. In reference t o how to pay for coins acquired for the Mint Cabinet he says in a note (1844) "But as the whole appropriation will not be more than $800.00 (if that much) the

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Mr. Eric Newman

defficiency is intended to be met by selling some of the superfuous pieces to Roper, Morris or other." These must be the same two men mentioned by Stickney but Patterson indicates they were not Amateurs but dealers. The mention of others is evidence of other known dealers. If this was the case in 1844 it is apparent that collector interest was greater at that time than any of us had previously thought. When I get time it will be interesting to review the years prior to 1838 with this subject in mind. It is possible that it would be worth while.

I have made some effor to identify Stearns but to no avail. Will try The Congressional Library when I get a chance.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

ANA MANA WNS •

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 6, 1961

Mr. Eric Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have just had a chance to study your diagnosis of the Zerbe 1804 and 1805 Dollars.

I am pleased that you have so effectively refuted the claim of genuiness to these coins on the basis of die variations. There is no question but what your analysis of early dies in relation to these coins compliments what the records at the Archives show to a degree that should once and for all settle all questions concerning these coins.

It was also well that your article was so widely published.

It may interest you to know that I ran accross young Osterheimer while he was doing research on these coins. I had made avaiable to him the most pertinent records concerning the 1804 Dollar. There was nothing said about a 1805 Dollar. It was four or five months later that his article was published in the face of the facts I had given him.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

October 13, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I think the air has cleared.

Thank you for your comments with respect to the 1838 letters. The index at ANS might show if the Stearns collection was ever sold at auction. I am glad that he shows an interest in early issues of the mint as both of us realize that the lack of interest in dates at that time was only true in some respects. It is a shame so many of the letters are missing. While Patterson's comment on 1792 half dismes is enlightening, I do not think it contradicts Judd's present rating as I am sure many were melted up after being in circulation.

I am very interested in learning from you the exact book in which you found the figure of "321 dollars" in red ink with respect tothe year 1805. I am going to cite your article on this item and wanted to have the source also.

I certainly look forward to your article on early coin collecting and I have some information on collecting coins in the 18th century in America which I can dig out for you if you are ready.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

ENN/atb

October 16, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your nice comments about the Zerbe dollars.

I found two items that will be of great help to you. William G. Stearns, of Cambridge, Massachusetts was written up in Vol. 6, page 98 of A.J.N. and an early letter concerning collecting American coins is in A.J.N. Vol. 7 page 35.

A mention of English sales of American coins is in the October, 1870 A.J.N. page 37 and page 40.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 17, 1961

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks for your letter of the 13th.

Lee Hewitt does not at the moment appear to be interested in the early collector story. He might be, though, after the material is fully developed. I think that when I get time I will work on this and let you know when I am ready to take advantage of your kind offer. I think it possible that the NUMISMATIST might be interested in this.

I believe I have named correctly the books that show the 321 dollars in red ink in relation to the year 1805. They were the bullion ledger and the blotter or dailey register. The only thing that could be added to this identification would be the item number on the inventory. This ~~item~~ matter was mentioned in other books of account and should you want these for your reference I will make a further check at the Archives and let you know.

As I wrote you I am gathering material for FROM WAMPUM TO DOLLARS. I plan a chapter on COLONIAL BOOKKEEPING. So far I have run accross nothing but what my imagination will provide. It would be interesting, if some authentic source could be found to learn how accounts were kept using the nominal shilling as a yardstick for the conglomeration of the various mediums of exchange that were in use during those days. Have you any bets on this ?

With my best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 20, 1961

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have yours of the 16th and appreciate your references especially on Stearns. I will open up a file on early collectors and American Numismatic History and when the opportunity presents itself do some further research. It is an interesting subject.

I am ordering out of the Archives six items all of which deal with the 321 Dollars of 1805. Most of these items also deal with the 1804 Dollar.

I know that you are involved with a book on the 1804 Dollar and I would like to suggest that either photostat or electrostat copies of the pertinent entries in the books of record and the more important letters be illustrated. The cost of electrostat is 20¢ per copy and I would be glad to obtain these if you desire. I am anxious to see the question of the 1804 Dollar settled once and for all so that no one in the future can be sold a silver dollar of this date at a fabulous price under the label of genuine. All that I would ask in return would be credit for whatever was used which was the result of my original research.

Another chapter of FROM WAMPUM TO DOLLARS for which I need more material is THE NOMINAL SHILLING. This will deal with the different valuations put on the shilling by the thirteen colonies.

Sincerely

Walter Thompson

Walter Thompson

October 23, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Please order for me the items in the Archives which relate to the 1804 and 1805 dollar records. If a photostat is better for reproduction than an electrostat, please order the photostat. This will be most helpful. Send me a memo of the charges.

Naturally you are being credited in our book to the extent of the original items which you have turned up and so is everyone who has found something new. I sincerely believe in citations and credits to the fullest extent.

I am sending you some more material on early collectors and dealers.

Thanks for the help.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 26, 1961

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks for yours of the 23rd and the enclosures.

Please don't go to any further trouble for me on the subject of early collectors. I greatly appreciate your interest but as Lee Hewitt is not interested I do not know where else to sell it.

I have not had time to again search the records for reproductions of the items pertaining to the 1804 and 1805 Dollars but will do so at the first opportunity.

When you finally publish the book on the 1804 Dollar I am sure that you will want all of the information available. In view of the fact that I have recently turned up documentary evidence of the existance of an 1804 Dollar Die in a vault at the Philadelphia Mint on two dates in the 1860's I feel that you will want to include these new facts. I am, of course giving Lee Hewitt the opportunity to be the first to publish these new facts.

Thanks again for your interest.

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

October 20, 1961

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have yours of the 18th and appreciate your references especially on Stearns. I will open up a file on early collectors and American Numismatic History and when the opportunity presents itself do some further research. It is an interesting subject.

I am ordering out of the Archives six items all of which deal with the 321 Dollars of 1805. Most of these items also deal with the 1804 Dollar.

I know that you are involved with a book on the 1804 Dollar and I would like to suggest that either photostat or electrostat copies of the pertinent entries in the books of record and the more important letters be illustrated. The cost of electrostat is 20¢ per copy and I would be glad to obtain these if you desire. I am anxious to see the question of the 1804 Dollar settled once and for all so that no one in the future can be sold a silver dollar of this date at a fabulous price under the label of genuine. All that I would ask in return would be credit for whatever was used which was the result of my original research.

Another chapter of FROM WAMPUM TO DOLLARS for which I need more material is THE NOMINAL SHILLING. This will deal with the different valuations put on the shilling by the thirteen colonies.

Sincerely

Walter Thompson

Walter Thompson

October 23, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Please order for me the items in the Archives which relate to the 1804 and 1805 dollar records. If a photostat is better for reproduction than an electrostat, please order the photostat. This will be most helpful. Send me a memo of the charges.

Naturally you are being credited in our book to the extent of the original items which you have turned up and so is everyone who has found something new. I sincerely believe in citations and credits to the fullest extent.

I am sending you some more material on early collectors and dealers.

Thanks for the help.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

October 30, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7604 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Your letter of October 26 concerning evidence of the existence of the 1804 dollar dies is most interesting. I am also wondering whether there are any other dies mentioned in these items you have located. My estimate is there must have been about ten pairs of obsolete old dies in existence until 1869 when they were destroyed. Would you be nice enough to send me a copy of this material with the understanding that you will publish it first. The reason I need it is because it will clarify and corroborate certain material on the 1804 book and I am sure that book will not be completed until Lee Hewitt has had an opportunity to publish your data.

As to authentic sources to learn how accounts were kept under Colonial bookkeeping methods, I could easily locate a great many of these. Colonial Williamsburg is loaded with them. George Washington's account book is a good example. I wrote an article many, many years ago for the SCHARBOOK as to conversion of Colonial exchanges and all of its problems. There was an English book called "The American Negotiator" by Wright which goes into a long discussion on these matters.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

EWG/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

November 2, 1961

Dear Dr. [illegible]:

I spent most of yesterday morning re-locating the entries pertaining to the 1804 and 1805 Dollars. The memo of the changes is attached. I had positive photostats made of these as in my judgement this method reproduces the best for magazine purposes. These will be sent by the Archives direct to you. The 1804 Dollar entries were found in Bullion Ledger # 2 - 1803 to 1810 and the 1805 in Bullion Waste(Blotter or Journal) Book 1804-1806. The term "Waste" seems to be a misnomer according to present day terminology and I did not use it for that reason.

I have taken time this morning to copy the enclosed document and list of dies found in the Cabinet Vault. I need not comment on the conclusions to be drawn as they are obvious. I will say that these documents explain a lot and settle many questions. I would suggest reproductions of these documents be made for your book. They are press copies and it may be they will have to be photographed with infra-red rays to bring them out.

Thanks for your help on Colonial Bookkeeping. I will greatly appreciate any other specific references you may have. I am trying to do in [illegible] TO DOLLARS the same thing you are with the 1804 Dollar i.e. to bring all the material together in its proper continuity dealing with the evolution of the Dollar from the Mexpun Head. I believe the title to be good and know you will use your discretion in the matter. The [illegible] chapters [illegible] are in right good shape. However my information for the chapters [illegible] are skimpy. As we go along perhaps you may run accross in your files items of interest or references pertaining to these subjects that will be helpful

I plan, when the opportunity presents itself, to visit Williamsburg, The Virginia State Library and The Hall of Records in Maryland to do some further digging on these subjects. I hope to obtain as many references as possible before making these trips.

With my best regards and my hopes for good going on your book, I am,

Sincerely
Walter Thompson
Walter Thompson

May 18, 1867

On the 8th of July 1859 several experimental Dies were boxed, sealed and placed in the Vault in the Cabinet and a list thereof was filed in the Director's Office. Another sealed box of experimental Dies was placed in said vault July 30, 1860 and a list filed in the same office. Neither of these papers can now be found and the Director deems it proper to have the boxes opened and again sealed up. It is ordered that the boxes referred to shall be opened this day in the presence of the Director, Chief Coiner, Engraver. ~~and~~ A list of the Dies shall be made. Immediately after which the dies shall be ~~returned to the vault~~ in boxes sealed up under the official seals of the Director ~~and~~ & Engraver.

H.R. Linderman
Director

* * * * * May 18, 1867

List of Dies Sealed up in box by Director of the Mint July 30th, 1860 and resealed May 18, 1867

Dollar Die	1804
Silver Dollar Dies	1838
" " "	1836
" " "	1839
Experimental Dies Half Dollars	
1 Head & Rev	1859
Paquet Half Dollar Die	1859
[illegible] Quarter " "	1859
Half Dollar Die	1858
" " "	1859
Dollar Dies (Silver)	1851 & 1852
Half Cent Die	1836
" " "	1851
" " "	1852
" " "	1844
" " "	1846
" " "	1847
" " "	1848
Quarter Dollar Die	1827
Exper. Gold Dollar Die	1852
" " "	1836

1842
1840
1852

May 18 1867

List of Dies Sealed up in Box by Director of the Mint July 8th, 1859 and resealed May 18, 1867

3 Flying Eagles 1 Cent Obverses	2-1854 & 1-1855
1 Liberty Head " " "	1854
1 Reverse " "	
1 Ring Cent Obverse & Reverse	1850
1 Tenth Silver Cent Obv. and Rev.	1851
1 Two Cent Eagle Rev. and Obv.	52
1 Three " Liberty Cap - Obv. and Rev. Silver	120
1 " " Figure 3 Obv. and Rev. Silver	112

1 Cent (Liberty Seated)
1 Cent blank " & wreath Reverse

November 6, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you so much for ordering the photo copies check for which is enclosed.

Your May 18, 1867 letter from Linderman is a sensation. However, when you publish it be sure that you tie it in to Linderman's collection of coins as most of his coins are from these dies. I will help you on this if you need it. What a skunk!

It is extremely important that you get this letter accurate as there are certain items which I believe are typographical errors or are copying errors. With respect to the 1804, does it say Dollar Die or could it be Dollar Dies. The singular or plural is extremely important. Under the Half Cent Dies, the date 1851 is probably 1831 as the former is a routine coin and the latter a restrike type. You also have listed Tenth Silver Cent and the first word must be something else perhaps German.

I have a copy of George Washington's account book which I can send you if you wish. I find it has its bookkeeping in New York money, Massachusetts money, and in dollars, and is a good example of the confusion. I will dig up other items along this line.

Thank you for your wonderful cooperation.

Sincerely,

EPN:dv

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

November 8, 1961

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks for yours of the 6th.

[redacted]

Incidently did you know there were two Snowdens - the second one was A. Louden Snowden and he was Chief Coiner and then later became Superintendent under the Bureau of the Mint. Hewitt and I are aware that Linderman sold his collection which contained coins struck from the dies on the list. I will tell him of your suggestion but I believe that this will be a separate story. I think the document should be published at this time emphasizing the 1804 Dollar Angle.

With references to what may be typographical errors - I believe the best way to settle this question is to have actual copies of the document made for your book. I think the same question you ask will be brought up by others unless the document itself is illustrated. I strongly suggest this for the book and will be glad to have the right kind of reproduction made for you.

I have seen George Washington's account book of expenses during the Revolutionary War but as I remember it was kept in Dollars - however when the time comes I will check this again. It is possible that I will take you up on your offer to lend me your copy - I may want to use it as an illustration. What account book is it

I am not in too much of a hurry with FROM WAMPUM TO DOLLARS so please take your time and send me whatever references come to hand readily. I would like to have some book references that would be available at the Congressional Library. The big point of the whole book will be to show the disparity of the shilling in the various parts of the country and the difficulty of finding a common denominator that would solve the problem.

Sincerely

Walter

P.S. I had a reproduction of the list and Lindermans letter made for the article but have sent it on to Hewitt so cannot with finallity settle the questions you bring up.

November 10, 1961

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Walter:

In your letter of November 8 you state you had a reproduction of the Linderman list and letter and sent it to Hewitt. I am writing him to send it to me and I will return it to you. It will therefore solve the questions I asked.

You must have amazing cooperation as I have already received the photocopies which you ordered of the entries covering the 1804 and 1805 dollar situation.

[redacted]

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

January 12,1962

Mr.Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexander,Virginia.

Dear Mr.Thompson:

Kenneth Bressett and I are working together this weekend on the 1804 dollar book and I want to add a few more sentences about the Eckfeldt family and the DuBois family. Time is of the essence and that is why I cannot write to the Archives in the ordinary way. Ken said that Whitman Publishing Company will pay you for your work on the question involved and you can no doubt take care of it promptly.

You pointed out in your Mint of North America article in the Scrapbook ,Nov.1959 p.2713 that Jacob Eckfeldt was paid $5.18 for making dies and money was paid to DuBois for sinking and case hardening dies. and that all of this was a part of the $1627.60 expence over the two year period in which preparations were made for a mint. Will you obtain for me the exact language and entries of all the expenditures for that purpose. If photostats can be obtained promptly then it will not be necessary for you to copy them out and I am sure that you have enough drag to get a prompt stat after you show them what to take. If the entries are scattered through a number of pages then perhaps copying them by hand may be better. Use you discretion.Please give me the proper citation as to the entries including page numbers if they are in a record book . Send the statement for the photostating to me among with the data.

I will appreciate your cooperationXX and look forward to having you send these items,directly to me.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.,
St.Louis, Mo.

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

January 15, 1964

Dear Eric:

I have yours of the 12th.

I have gone through my notes taken at the time I wrote about the Mint of North America and I find that the entries in the books of account of the Continental Congress are lump sums paid to Benjamin ~~Dudley~~ Dudley. I could not find any break downs on these payments. I do not think these will do you much good.

However Crosby shows payments to Jacob Eckfield for dies ~~Feb~~, 1783 of £5.18 and £72.00 paid to A. Dubois for sinking and case hardening four pairs of dies for the public Mint. I do not possess a copy of Crosby so cannot give you the page. I do not think it will be difficult for you to find. One of Robert Morris's biographers also made mention of the payment to Eckfeldt. There must therefor be a book of account showing the breakdown of the payments to Benjamin Dudley that none of us have been able to locate.

I expect to be able to get to the chapters on The Nominal Shilling and Colonial Bookkeeping very shortly. I will appreciate any information or references that you can dig out of your files.

Sincerely

Walter

Walter Thompson

January 26, 1962

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Walter:

Have you read William G. Sumner's "Spanish Dollars and Colonial Shillings"? I have not seen it but the title looks as though it is just what you want.

Thanks for your other helpfulness.

I will be back to you shortly when I find other material.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

March 6, 1962

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your note of Jan 26th and the reference to Sumner's book. It should be very helpful. Will appreciate anything else you may have on the subject in your files.

I am enclosing my recently published Booklet HOW U.S. COINS ARE MADE and am looking forward with interest to read your book on the 1804 Dollar.

I ran into Mr. John Willem, a friend of yours at the Archives and he wants me to collaborate with him on a History of the Mint. A few days later I talked with Dick Johnson at COIN WORLD and he expressed interest not only in the history but also in FROM WAMPUM TO DOLLARS to run as serials with possibilities of republication. Will have to work with whichever is the most profitable.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely
Walter
Walter Thompson

March 16, 1962

Mr. Walter Thompson
Numismatic Research
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Walter:

I was very pleased to read your interesting pamphlet on the manufacturing process at the Mint. I believe it is essential for collectors to be aware of this information and I hope that they read it. Congratulations on accomplishing it.

As a further suggestion for your coming work, I feel you should read Critical Period of American History by Fiske, Page 185. This should be helpful.

Keep up the good work.

I am glad that John Willem is working in the Archives and I hope that his dream of History comes true.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:jr

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

March 31, 1962

Mr. Eric Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Thanks for yours of the 16th and your kind remarks about the booklet.

It may interest you to know that it now appears that John Willem and I will collaborate on a book that will deal with items of numismatic interest beginning with Wampum and bringing the story up to the present time. It has long been a dream of mine to bring all the historical items of interest between the covers of one book. I know that you have experienced the same thing I have in that so much of the information is scattered among old issues of the Numismatist and remote private publications.

I have finished the chapter on Wampum and am now working on Tobacco. The next will be The Commodity Currencies and after that will come the Nominal Shilling. I am considering a chapter on Colonial Coinage which I believe will help to explain the confusion that existed. Mr. Willem has an extensive library and access to the ANS in N.Y. and I believe that between us we should be able to come up with a book that has been needed for a long time.

From the above you can see that it will be a while before I will get to the Nominal Shilling and that period. I appreciate the references you have sent me and perhaps you can enlighten me on William Sumner's "Spanish Dollars and Colonial Shillings". Sumner was a prolific writer but I could not find this book at The Congressional Library. Do you know where it can be located ? If you do I think I could get the County Librarian to obtain it for me. It sounds like just what I am looking for.

This is going to be quite an undertaking and I will greatly appreciate anything you might dig up when you have the time.

Sincerely
Walter
Walter Thompson

April 4, 1962

Dear Walter,

The reference to William Sumner's "Spanish Dollars and Colonial Shillings", perhaps, is in a periodical and you could check the periodical index. Perhaps it is a chapter in one of Sumner's books.

In your research on Tobacco, you might mention that Virginia paper money of the 1771 issue has "W.N.Pr.TOBACCO" on the note itself. I have a picture of it. It means "Warehoused New Premium Tobacco".

There is a good article on Virginia Colonial Money and tobacco's part in Va. Law Journal Vol. I, p. 447 (Richmond, 1877) by Wm. Royall.

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Saturday

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your note and the references. I have put them in the folder for Congressional Library.

I am enclosing a copy of a Maryland Bond issued and paid in terms of tobacco. Should you be interested in having a copy of this it can be obtained from The Hall of Records at Annapolis, Maryland. The identification is Tobacco Certificate No 10 (G 13). Please return this when you ha ve finished examining it. I will use this as an illustration.

I am greatly interested in the picture of Virginia paper money with W.N.Pr. Tobacco on the note. I would like to use this as an illustration. If you can find the time to have a reproduction made of the picture you have I will be glad to pay the cost.

There is still a long hard row to hoe to complete this project and I will appreciate any help I can obtain.

Thanking you for your interest,

Walter

(over)

April 10, 1962

Mr.Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Walter:

I am returning the interesting photostats of the tobacco receipts.

I did locate a photograph of the Virginia counterfeit five pound note. I have never heard of an original genuine note being located; however, for your purposes a counterfeit is just as good. You will note the interesting reference to tobacco.

Glad to be of help.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ANA MANA WNS

WALTER THOMPSON
NUMISMATIC RESEARCH
7600 MORGAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

April 11, 1962

Dear Eric:

I can't tell you how pleased I was to receive the picture of the Virginia Tobacco Note. My pleasure was emphasized by the fact that just a few moments before I received your letter I was talking to Dr. Steffaneâli nad he tells me he does not have a single specimen in the Smithsonian collection. He will no doubt be in touch with you for a reproduction of yours. I gave him the source of the Maryland Note.

The chapter on Tobacco is now complete and the next one will be THE COMMODITY CURRENCIES. This is going to be tough as I have located but little material outside of the Statutes at large of the various Colonies. Most of it will have to be conjecture based on reasonable assumptions.

Thanking you again for your very valuable help, I am,

Sincerely

Walter

August 23, 1962

Mr.Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Walter:

I need a small amount of quick service from you which the Whitman Publishing Company will pay for. It is in connection with our 1804 Dollar book.

I wrote the Archives and they state that it will take four weeks to satisfy my order and it ought to take about five minutes.

I would like to have you make a copy,in long-hand, of a very short letter dated March 31, 1835, Domestic Letters Vol. 27, page 2 , from the Secretary of State, John Forsyth, t the Director of the Mint, Dr. Samuel Moore, relating to sets of coins to be presented to the Emperors of Cochin-China and Japan. Would it be possible for you to take care of this for me at your earliest convenience.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P.NEWMAN

EPN/atb

August 24,1962

Mr.Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Walter:

Please cancel my request for the March 31,1835 letter as the Archives were nice enough to send it to me by return mail after advising me it would take four weeks. I am sure you are pleased with the thought of not having to bother about it.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

October 22, 1962

Mr. Walter Thompson
7600 Morgan Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Walter:

I was on vacation when your letter of September 22 arrived. Thank you for this data. As you realize, the book was complete by that time.

I am glad that you have gone through the Mint records up to 1883 and you no doubt have found some fascinating items which will be the subject of your future writings.

Again, may I thank you for your assistance with respect to the 1804 Dollar book.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb